

### *Claims*

What is claimed is:

1. A method for treating the secondary damage resulting from spinal cord injury, which comprises administering a therapeutically effective amount of beta interferon or an analogue thereof.
2. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the beta interferon or analogue thereof is commercially available and is approved by the FDA for the treatment of multiple sclerosis (MS).
3. The method as recited in claim 2, wherein the beta interferon or analogue thereof is administered as prescribed for the treatment of MS.
4. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein either Betaseron or Avonex is administered.
5. The method as recited in any one of claims 2-4, wherein the commercially available beta interferon is administered at the dosage and frequency as prescribed for the treatment of relapsing-remitting MS.
6. The method as recited in claim 5, wherein the beta interferon is administered starting at about the 11th day or later after injury.
7. The method as recited in claim 5, wherein the beta interferon is administered starting at the 4th week or later after injury.

8. A method of preventing or attenuating the progressive chronic inflammation and demyelination resulting from spinal cord injury, which comprises administering a therapeutically effective amount of beta interferon or an analogue thereof.
9. The method as recited in claim 8, wherein the beta interferon or analogue thereof is commercially available and is approved by the FDA for the treatment of MS.
10. The method as recited in claim 9, wherein the beta interferon or analogue thereof is administered as prescribed for the treatment of MS.
11. The method as recited in claim 8, wherein either Betaseron or Avonex is administered.
12. The method as recited in any one of claims 9-11, wherein the commercially available beta interferon is administered at the dosage and frequency as prescribed for the treatment of relapsing-remitting MS.
13. The method as recited in claim 12, wherein the beta interferon is administered starting at about the 11th day or later after injury.
14. The method as recited in claim 12, wherein the beta interferon is administered starting at the 4th week or later after injury.
15. A method for therapy and rescue of the uninjured neuronal fiber tracts in chronic spinal cord injuries, which comprises administering a therapeutically effective amount of beta interferon or an analogue thereof.
16. The method as recited in claim 15, wherein the beta interferon or analogue thereof is commercially available and is approved by the FDA for the treatment of MS.

17. The method as recited in claim 16, wherein the beta interferon or analogue thereof is administered as prescribed for the treatment of MS.
18. The method as recited in claim 15, wherein either Betaseron or Avonex is administered.
19. The method as recited in any one of claims 16-18, wherein the commercially available beta interferon is administered at the dosage and frequency as prescribed for the treatment of relapsing-remitting MS.
20. The method as recited in claim 19, wherein the beta interferon is administered starting at about the 11th day or later after injury.
21. The method as recited in claim 19, wherein the beta interferon is administered starting at the 4th week or later after injury.
22. A method for repair and rescue of the neurologic function of the uninjured neuronal fiber tracts in chronic spinal cord injuries, which comprises administering a therapeutically effective amount of beta interferon or an analogue thereof.
23. The method as recited in claim 22, wherein the beta interferon or analogue thereof is commercially available and is approved by the FDA for the treatment of MS.
24. The method as recited in claim 23, wherein the beta interferon or analogue thereof is administered as prescribed for the treatment of MS.
25. The method as recited in claim 22, wherein either Betaseron or Avonex is administered.
26. The method as recited in any one of claims 23-25, wherein the commercially available beta interferon is administered at the dosage and frequency as prescribed for the treatment of

relapsing-remitting MS.

27. The method as recited in claim 26, wherein the beta interferon is administered starting at about the 11th day or later after injury.

28. The method as recited in claim 26, wherein the beta interferon is administered starting at the 4th week or later after injury.